



## SERMON NOTES

"Joyride: Finding Joy in Places it Shouldn't be Found"  
Week Two: Prayers That Lead to Joy  
Philippians 1:8-11

### 1. Pray that **LOVE** will abound

- Philippians 1:8-9
- Love is giving someone what they **NEED** the most, when they **DESERVE** it the least, at great personal **SACRIFICE**
- **JOY** comes as **LOVE** grows
- We don't **LOVE** others because we don't **KNOW** others

### 2. Pray that excellent things will be **APPROVED**

- Philippians 1:10a
- Paul's prayer was that they would **TEST** the things that are of more **VALUE**

### 3. Pray for **SINCERITY**

- Philippians 1:10b
- Many of the 'excellent' things that we do are not done out of **LOVE** for Him, but out of the **EXPECTATIONS** of others

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. II Cor. 5:14-15

### 4. Pray for God to be **GLORIFIED**

- Philippians 1:11

## LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of September 15, 2019

### MY STORY

If you had \$500 to spend on dinner tonight for your family, what would you be eating? Would you go out or eat at home? What appetizer, entree, or dessert?

Since LifeGroups are all about connecting...who was your best friend growing up, and what was one of the craziest things that you did together?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

Philippians 1:8-11 shows us how Paul prayed for others. How do the things he prayed differ from the things we typically pray?

What was the definition Josh gave for love? Read Mt. 5:43-48 and try to identify the four things that they were commanded to do. What makes those things so difficult?

What are some practical ways that we can do those four things?

Paul prayed that their love would abound in "knowledge." Read another of Paul's prayers in Ephesians 3:14-19 and look for similarities to this idea of growing in knowledge.

Paul talked about trying things that are "excellent." What are some "excellent" things that Christians may be reluctant to try?

We talked about the need to be "sincere." What are some ways that Christians can be "insincere/hypocritical?"

Read Matthew 23:25-28 and talk about how their behavior might have been an "offence" (like Paul talked about in Philippians 1:10).

What is the source of the "fruit" in Phil. 1:11? What does John 15:3-5 say about this?

What are some practical ways to "abide in Christ?" How do these things glorify God?

### TAKING IT HOME

It is easy to fall into the trap of praying prayers like, "Lord, bless \_\_\_\_\_" rather than praying like Paul did in vs. 8-11. How can we be reminded to pray like Paul did?

Is there anything you need to do as a result of what you've learned this week?

Is there anything you need to "approve" that is "excellent?"

Is there a way that you need to grow in your knowledge of God? How so?